

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 OMB-01

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P R 271732Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4160

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

S E C R E T LONDON 13276

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, SN, US

SUBJECT: U.S. NAVAL USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES

REF: STATE 200775

1. WE MET WITH BEVAN, HEAD OF SOUTHWEST PACIFIC DEPT., FCO. ON AUGUST 27 TO DISCUSS U.S. RESPONSE TO BRITISH PROPOSALS ON U.S. USE OF SINGAPORE NAVAL FACILITIES. WE PRESENTED POINTS IN PARA 5 REFTEL AS INSTRUCTED.
2. BEVAN SAID HMG IS PLEASED TO RECEIVE U.S. COUNTER PROPOSAL. HE NOTED THAT U.S. PLAN DIFFERS FROM UK PROPOSAL IN THAT TWO UK CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WOULD BE RETAINED AND UK WOULD MAINTAIN CONTROL OF ENTIRE FUEL DEPOT. CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ASPECT DID NOT SEEM TO BOTHER HIM BUT HE DID QUESTION FUEL FARM ASPECT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ENTIRE U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED IN HMG AND PROMISED RAPID ACTION.

3. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WE MENTIONED COSTS

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QUOTING PARA 4E REFTEL. BEVAN SHOWED SOME CON-

CERN WHEN WE MENTIONED THAT U.S. IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE "TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED". THE IMPLICATION THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN A COMMITTEE-TYPE SITUATION ON POLICY AND OPERATIONS, IN ADDITION TO FUNDING, SEEMED TO BOTHER HIM THE MOST. HE FELT THAT "5 HEADS WOULD NOT BE BETTER THAN 2".

4. REGARDING PARA 6 REFTEL BEVAN HAD NO OBJECTION WHATSOEVER TO EMBASSY SINGAPORE INFORMING GOS THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH UK. IN FACT HE HOPED THAT WE MIGHT MAKE IT CLEAR TO GOS THAT ANY QUESTION OF NEW ZEALAND ALTERNATIVE IS NOW DEAD.

5. COMMENT. BEVAN WAS REMARKABLY RELAXED ABOUT U.S. COUNTER PROPOSAL. HE DID NOT REACT IN ANY NEGATIVE WAY TO OUR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS IN UK PLAN OF ACTION. WE NOTE THAT THIS MIGHT BE DUE PARTLY TO THE FACT THAT HE HAS LEFT MOST OF THE ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT TO HIS ASSISTANT, DE COURCY-IRELAND. WHO IS AT PRESENT ON LEAVE. WE EXPECT EXPEDITIOUS BUT COMPREHENSIVE UK CONSIDERATION OF U.S. PROPOSAL WITH MOST UK CONCERN FOCUSED ON POSSIBLE IMPACT ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL HANDLING OF UK DEFENSE REVIEW. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED WE WILL SEEK STATUS REPORT ON HMG DELIBERATIONS ABOUT SEPTEMBER 8.

RICHARDSON

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